

EXPANDING BOUNDARIES

What Is Partners in Policymaking®?

Partners in Policymaking® is an innovative leadership program created specifically to teach people with disabilities and the parents of young children with disabilities to:

- **Become agents of long-term change**
- **Become active partners with the policymakers whose decisions will shape their future**
- **Dream about a future with possibilities**

A note from the Program Coordinator



I have been the Partners in Policymaking® Coordinator since July 2015. I'm a graduate of the College of Charleston R.E.A.C.H. Program. Before joining the SC DD Council, I worked for the College of Charleston mail services as a mail carrier, delivering, picking-up and assisting students with packages, and addressing questions or concerns. As a self-advocate, I have a passion for helping young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve their dreams. This is due to the many friends, family, co-workers, and teachers who gave me the support and opportunities to achieve my goals. When I'm not working on Partners in Policymaking® with the Developmental Disabilities Council, I enjoy playing sports, listening to music, and hanging out with friends and family. I want to say a special "Thank You" to everyone who helps to make this program a success!

William "Will" Farrior, Coordinator

"Just Because My Path is Different Doesn't Mean I'm Lost"



The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council was established in 1971 by Executive Order of the Governor and was reauthorized in 2010 **and again in 2015**. Not less than 60% of the total Council membership is consumers and family members. Additional members come from state agencies, DD Act partners and non-governmental organizations.

The Council is federally funded under the Developmental Disabilities Act. The Council engages in activities that contribute to a coordinated, consumer and family centered and directed, comprehensive system that includes needed community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The mission of the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is to provide leadership in planning, funding, and implementing initiatives that lead to improved quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change. In 2015, the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council brought Partners in Policymaking® in house. In the past five years we have had four graduation classes 19, 20, 21, and 22.

In March 2020 when COVID-19 hit, we were challenged to find alternative means to serve the disability community during the pandemic. Since we couldn't do big gatherings during the pandemic, we had to think outside of the box and be creative. This led to using virtual sessions to connect with everyone in the disability community.

We have done some virtual sessions with film maker and director Dan Habib and his son Samuel Habib that talk about

- Person-centered planning/student-driven IEPs
- Self-Advocacy/self-determination strategies and leadership development
- Inclusive education
- Community-based experiences such as extended learning opportunities, internships, work study, and apprenticeships
- Paid work experience and entrepreneurship development
- Family involvement and high expectations
- Higher education opportunities and supports



Also, we will be starting new virtual sessions on leadership and affecting change in our communities. The first session will begin on October 29th https://bit.ly/leader_skills and the second session will be November 18th <https://bit.ly/advocacy>

There are a few new ways that we are publicizing Partners in Policymaking®.

- The logo will be put on our new table display that will be used at future conferences.
- We have created a new brochure that describes each session. For example, Session One: Getting the Facts includes an Introduction and detail on Disability History.
- In addition, we have created this new digital newsletter that will be sent out every other month.
- We launched our social media presence on Facebook and Twitter. I encourage you to Like, Follow and Share
 - <https://www.facebook.com/South-Carolina-Developmental-Disabilities-Council-111833051267667>
 - <https://www.twitter.com/SCDDCouncil>

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES!

Class 19



Back Row: Brook N. McNeely, Chrissie Taylor, Michelle Perry, Michelle Godfrey, Valeria Adams, Middle Row: L-R Deborah Tisdal, Shawn Ford, Loretta Brown, Lillie Eaddy, Derrick Hardy, Gordon Herring-Poston, Marquessa House, Front Row: Clifton Ferguson, Kenny Taylor, Amber K. Simpson, Alyssa Bacher,



Class 20



Tammie Carter, Christina Robinson, Amber Shelley, Chris Hardee, Glander Pressley, Cheryl Allen, Valeria Ann Pearce, Devonte Robinson

Not pictured: Bernard Johnson and C. Shaw



Class 21

Christy Stinney, Marjorie Weer Savannah Ordaz, Crystal Holder, Eula Mae Robinson, Margaret Bates, Amber Kneece, Crissy Ortiz, Janet Robinson, John Green, Elizabeth Smithson, Allison Huffstutler, Melissa Hunt, David Ard, Kevin Lewis, Front Row: Sylvia Washington, Ashley Jenkins



Class 22



Back Row: (L-R): Amy Hibbs, Kathryn Thompson-Feith, Jason Legette, Kathy Sibert, Tessa V. Gonzalez, Valoree Duquette, Trayci Brazell
Front Row: Bryant McDaniel, Anjanette Johnson, Chrissie McLeod, Angel Dockins, Catherine Hanna, Angela Anderson, Shamika Simon

Not pictured: Abbey Lea Bell, Tanisha Morris, Todd Summers



We hope to reconvene Partners in Policymaking® in the Fall of 2022. If you have any comments or suggestions, please let us know. For more information about Partners or the Council, please check out our website at <http://www.scdcd.sc.gov>

Partners in Policymaking® outlines the foundation for making systemic change by utilizing a shared vision through education, training, and a unified voice. The positive peer interaction strengthens individuals as well as collaborations and partnerships.

Sessions Include:

- **GETTING THE FACTS**
- **USING THE BEST TOOLS**
- **EQUIPPING YOURSELF**
- **MAKING AN IMPACT AND INCREASING AWARENESS**
- **EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES**

SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

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Ms. Margaret Alewine
Mrs. Carol Anderson
Mr. Joseph “Joey” Barefoot
Mrs. Michelle Barefoot
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